

THE TRANSITIVITY SYSTEM IN STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AS A PART OF STUDY PROPOSAL TEXT

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ABSTRAK

Ada dua jenis teks, yaitu teks lisan dan teks tertulis. Baik teks lisan maupun teks tertulis masing-masing memiliki makna yang terkandung di dalamnya. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis memilih salah satu teks tertulis, yaitu *Statement of Purpose* yang merupakan bagian dari teks *Study Proposal*. Penulis tertarik meneliti jenis teks ini karena teks *Statement of Purpose* diasumsikan memiliki makna ideasional yang dapat dikaji lebih lanjut. Ruang lingkup dalam penelitian ini adalah analisis *transitivity system* pada teks *Statement of Purpose* sebagai bagian dari *Study Proposal* yang diambil dari website UC Berkeley. Untuk itu, penulis memakai *Systemic Functional Grammar* yang diperkenalkan oleh Halliday (2004) sebagai alat analisis dengan didukung oleh teori-teori Eggins(1994).

Penelitian ini bertujuan menjelaskan makna ideasional yang ingin diungkapkan oleh penulis teks *Statement of Purpose* melalui *transitivity system*. Data yang digunakan adalah seluruh klausa yang terdapat dalam teks *Statement of Purpose*. Penelitian ini dikategorikan sebagai penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Dalam pengumpulan data, penulis menggunakan *documentary method* dan Simak Bebas Libat Cakap.

Hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam teks *Statement of Purpose*, makna ideasional yang ingin disampaikan oleh penulis terbagi menjadi tiga bagian. Bagian yang pertama yaitu pengenalan. Pada bagian pengenalan, penulis *Statement of Purpose* memberikan gambaran mengenai identitas, latar belakang dan ketertarikannya terhadap salah satu bidang. Bagian kedua yaitu isi dimana penulis *Statement of Purpose* menjelaskan apa saja yang telah ia lakukan di masa lampau. Bagian yang terakhir yaitu penutup. Pada bagian ini,

penulis menjelaskan tentang rencana masa depan, alasan kenapa dia memilih UC Berkeley dan pendapatnya mengenai universitas tersebut.

Kata kunci : *Statement of Purpose, transitivity system, ideational meaning*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

According to Widdowson (2010:4), “a text can be defined as an actual use of language”. Text is divided into two. There are written text and spoken text. Spoken text is typically used by more than one participant. This kind of text occurs in conversation. Spoken text is intended to bridge the discourses among participants. On the other hand, written text is produced by one or more participants. Written text is more independent than spoken text. This is because written text is controlled by a writer. The writer conveys the messages through written text. For gaining the messages, doing analysis is needed. Therefore, the difference between spoken text and written text is in the way for getting the discourses.

As mentioned before, written text needs to be analyzed for realizing the meaning. Since written text serves a grammatical form, the intended meaning of the text can be identified by looking at the grammatical form used by the writer. According to Widdowson (2010:7), written texts are more difficult to achieve in getting the meaning because there is only the writer who controls the intention of message. Therefore, written text should be interpreted and the meaning of the text can be realized.

One of written texts which is chosen to be analyzed in this research is statement of purpose. Statement of purpose is the part of study proposal text. It is one of important requirements of a graduate application process. Students who will apply to a university should make statement of purpose. It can be a tool for the admissions committees to evaluate the self identity, knowledge, experiences, capability, and motivation of applicants. The writer assumes that statement of purpose has meaning which can be further analyzed.

In connection with meaning of texts, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), there are three kind of meanings of text. Those are ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning. In ideational meaning analysis, the focus analysis is on participants, processes and circumstances. In this research, the main concern is in ideational meaning. Ideational meaning is able to reveal experience and what is going on in the text.

The writer is interested in analyzing statement of purpose because this text is potential to be identified in ideational meaning analysis. The writer wants to find out the meaning behind the text. Statement of purpose is viewed that it has specific purpose. A writer of statement of purpose would try to impress reader through message contained in the statement of purpose.

After choosing statement of purpose as the object of analysis, the tool for analyzing the data is needed. The data of this research is all clauses in the statement of purpose. For identifying ideational meaning in the text, the writer uses systemic functional grammar. In systemic functional grammar, ideational meaning is identified by using transitivity system. Transitivity system which is introduced by Halliday (2004) peels each part of the clauses. There are

participant, type of process and circumstance. The writer also uses theories of Eggins (1994) for supporting the data analysis.

1.2 Scope of the study and the Problem

This research is limited to the analysis of transitivity system in the statement of purpose as the part of study proposal text. The text is taken from UC Berkeley's official website. The statement of purpose was written by one of students who was admitted into UC Berkeley's History Department. UC Berkeley posted the text as an example of study proposal writing. The analysis is intended to find out ideational meaning in the statement of purpose. Furthermore, this research has a problem that should be solved. The problem is that how is an ideational meaning realized in the clauses of the statement of purpose.

1.3 Purpose of the study

This research has a purpose that should be gained. As every text has meaning, the statement of purpose is assumed that it has further meanings expressed by the statement of purpose writer. The writer conducts this research in order to find out the ideational meaning contained in the statement of purpose text.

1.4 Previous Studies

The writer found two previous studies that use Systemic Functional Grammar as the theoretical framework. Wahyu Dwi S (2010) conducted research to find ideational meaning in childrens songs. He takes childrens songs Barney 'Dancing and Singing' series as the data. Besides the ideational meanings, she also concerns the thematic development in the texts. The result of this research shows that there are 115 clauses. The ideational meaning found in the series are friendship, desire, admiration. The theme developments used by the song writer are re-

iteration and zigzag. There is a difference between this research and this previous study. This previous study is intended to find the ideational meaning and the theme development pattern. However, this research has the purpose to find the particular characteristics of the statement of purpose so that the purpose of it can be realized.

Another study that has similarities to this research is the research conducted by Narolita M (2012). In her research, she tries to reveal the patterns of company profiles. She takes five company profiles to analyze. In analyzing the data, she employs genre concept by Gerot and Wignell (1994) combined with transitivity system and nominal group concept by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) . This research combined qualitative method and semi quantitative method. The differences between this previous study and this research are that the previous study uses semi quantitative method whereas this research does not use it. This research more emphasizes the intepretation of the tendencies used in the text and tries to explain the intepretation in detail. This research concerns how the statement of purpose writer expresses ideational meanings in the text. The writer tries to use the same theory used by Narolita but the writer wants to apply in the different object. Narolita analyzes company profiles while the writer analyzes a statement of purpose.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Systemic Functional Grammar

Systemic Functional Grammar has a function as a tool to analyze meanings of a text. According to Gerot and Wignell (1994:5-6) through systemic functional grammar, we look at the language

in different ways. It is different from traditional grammar and formal grammar. In traditional grammar, the main concern is to compare the grammar of standard English with Latin and it deals with rules of correct usage. Then in formal grammar, the focus is on the structure of personal sentence. On the other hand, functional grammar comes with new perspective for viewing language. Lock (1996:3) argues that functional grammar focuses on how the grammar of a language provides as a resource for making and exchanging meanings.

2.2 The Metafunctions

In functional grammar, the function of language is called metafunctions. The metafunctions encompass three main functional components. There are ideational metafunction, interpersonal metafunction, and textual metafunction. These three of metafunctions have their significance in clauses. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004:58-59) explain that ideational meaning deals with representing the world and experiences. Interpersonal meaning informs the interaction between participants. Then textual meaning explores the development of messages.

2.3 Ideational Meaning

According to Butt *et al* (2001:5), ideational meaning represents experience by using language. Ideational meaning conveys language user to view the world. This meaning enables to know what is going on in a text. Martin and Rose (2003:66) point out that:

Ideation focuses on the ‘content’ of a discourse : what kinds of activities are undertaken, and how participants in these activities are described, how they are classified and what they are composed of. Ideation is concerned with how our experience of ‘reality’, material, and symbolic, is construed in discourse.

Ideational meaning leads to look context of situation. Halliday and Hassan (1989:10) say that finding context of situation is the first step to make predictions about meanings in texts.

In the context of situation, there are the field, tenor, and mode. The feature which relates with ideational meaning is field of discourse. Field of discourse informs the kind of activity (Halliday and Hassan,1985:45). According to Butt *et al* (1994:192) field of discourse is experiential domain. This is what the text is talk about the processes, participant and circumstances.

2.4 Transitivity System

The grammatical system that is used to achieve meanings in a text is transitivity system. This shows how the structure construes meaning. Eggins (1994:266) explains that within the experiential metafunction, there are 6 types of processes that occur in clauses : material, mental, behavioural, verbal, existential, relational.

In transitivity system, the analysis is carried out at clause level. Clause has essential position to functional grammar because it contains the sequence of ideational meanings. According to Gerot and Wignell (1994:83-84) clause can be divided into two, that is, minor clause and major clause. There is no predicator in minor clause while major clause has predicator. Major clause distinguishes between dependent clauses and independent clauses. Dependent clauses must follow independent clause because independent clauses can stand alone while dependent clauses can not.

2.5 Types of processes

Material Processes : processes of doing and happening.

Eggins (1994:230) says that “The basic meaning of material processes is that some entity does something”. Material processes are processes, about doing, about action.

Mental Processes : Processes of sensing (feeling, thinking, perceiving)

Mental process can be investigated by answering the question “what do you think/feel/know about x?”.

Behavioural processes

Behavioural processes are related with physiological and psychological behaviour (Eggin 1994:250). Furthermore, Gerot and Wignell (1994:60) say that behavioural processes are processes like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccuping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering.

Verbal processes

Verbal processes are processes of saying. These processes have three participants. Those are sayer, receiver, and verbiage. Sayer is the participant who does the verbal process. Receiver is the participants to whom the verbal process is directed. Then verbiage is the statement of the verbal process such as statement, question, report, answer and story (Eggin,1994:252)

Existential Processes

According to Eggin (1994:254), “Existential processes represent experience by positing that “there was/is something” .

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Type of Research

According to Moleong (2010:9) qualitative research uses qualitative methods. The methods to collect the data are observation, interview, document analysis. From that description,

this research is categorized into qualitative research because this research analyzes a document. This research is also defined as descriptive research. Isaac and Michael (1971:46) state that a descriptive method has purpose to explain the facts of the situation systematically, factually, and accurately. The writer tries to explain the findings in detail.

3.2 Data and Sources

Moleong (2010:157) states that there are some types of data. Those are words and acts, written sources, photographs, and statistics. The data of this research are all clauses in the statement of purpose text. According to Arikunto (2006:129), data source is the subject from which the data are obtained. The data of this research are all clauses in the statement of purpose obtained from UC Berkeley official website. In this website, UC Berkeley give an example of statement of purpose as the part of study proposal written by one of students who was admitted into UC Berkeley's History Department.

3.3 Population and Samples

Population is whole analysis units which will be analyzed in research (Arikunto,2006:130). The population in this research is all clauses written in the statement of purpose text. According to Mahsun (2007:29) sample is part of the overall object of research as representative which is possible to make generalization to the population. However, this research uses all clauses to be analyzed so that it is called total purposive sampling proposed by Arikunto (2006).

3.4 Method of Collecting Data

In collecting data, the writer uses a documentary method because the data are taken from internet. Arikunto (2006:158) states that in documentary method, the researcher gets the data from books, magazines, documents, etc. In this research, the writer collected the data from UC

Berkeley official website which is categorized into a document form. The writer also uses non-participant observation called *Teknik Simak Bebas Libat Cakap* proposed by Sudaryanto (1993). The data of this research are clauses in the statement of purpose, the writer collected the data by dividing the statement of purpose text into clauses.

3.5 Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

The analysis uses referential identity method (Sudaryanto,1993). Referential identity method is used in identifying the words or phrases in the text to show ideational meaning expressed in the statement of purpose. In addition, distributional method is also used by the writer. In this method, the main element of analysis is contained in the language. The data analyzed in this research are clauses. Sudaryanto (1993:31) proposes a technique called segmenting immediate constituents technique. This technique of analysis is realized by segmenting the data into some elements, based on the aspect that has been determined.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Ideational Meaning of the Text

After finishing the whole analysis in chapter 4, the writer summarizes the general findings that are found in the statement of purpose. The attention is concentrated in the dominant type of process, participants and circumstances. Here are the general findings of the analysis :

1. Based on the rank of frequency, material process is the highest. Mental process is in the second position. After that, relational process is the fewest.

2. The participant who is mostly involved is the pronoun 'I' as the actor. The pronoun 'I' refers to the statement of purpose writer. Senses in mental processes are mostly anthropomorphized non-human participants.
3. There is no dominance of some types of circumstances. The circumstances used by the statement of purpose writer are various.
4. By looking at each paragraph, the writer concludes that the statement of purpose text has three main parts :
 1. The introduction consists of identity, background and interest of study.
 2. The content tells the events, the capability and knowledge.
 3. The closing contains the future plans, the reason of choosing the university, and the opinion about the university.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

There are some findings found in chapter 4. As mentioned before, in the introduction, the focus of the study is on three elements of transitivity system and the ideational meaning contained in the statement of purpose. According to the data analysis, the writer found the ideational meaning expressed by the statement of purpose writer.

By looking at the data, the statement of purpose is dominated by material processes. Mental processes are fewer than material processes. The number of material processes is higher than the number of mental processes. The use of material process describes the events that the statement of purpose writer did in the past. Moreover, the finding shows that the use of past tense

is in high frequency. This proves that the text tells the statement of purpose writer's experience. It specifically emphasizes the background of the statement of purpose writer. On the other hand, the use of mental process gives a chance for the statement of purpose writer to propose her idea and her thinking.

Talking about participants, the participant who is mostly involved is the pronoun 'I'. The pronoun 'I' refers to the statement of purpose text writer. The reason why, the use of the pronoun 'I' is high because the text is intended to describe about the statement of purpose writer. Another finding is that the statement of purpose writer tends to use anthropomorphized non-human as sener. She uses unconscious seners in almost mental processes. It indicates that the statement of purpose writer assumes this sener can do mental processes. However, sometimes she uses the pronoun 'I' as sener. It shows that she wants to propose her idea and her thought that come from herself. After that, the writer found that the statement of purpose writer uses various type of circumstances. Circumstantial elements contribute to give additional information given by statement of purpose writer.

By analyzing each clause, the writer realizes the ideational meaning in the statement of purpose. The first part is the introduction. In the begining of the text, the statement of purpose writer tells more about herself. She describes her identity, her background, and her interest of study. The second part is the content. In the middle of the text, the statement of purpose writer talks the events that she did in the past, her capability, and her knowledge. The last part is the closing. In the end of the text, the statement of purpose writer states about the future plans, the reason why she chooses the university, and her opinion about the university.

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